

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 HEW-06 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-10 ARA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 OES-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02
DIWY-01 /152 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 323

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA): US STATEMENT
IN GENERAL DEBATE

1. IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED STATEMENT BY WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR, DR. BOURNE, USDEL SCELSI DELIVERED FOLLOWING STATEMENT: BEGIN TEXT. UNICEF, AS WE ALL KNOW, WAS CREATED IN DECEMBER 1946 PRIMARILY TO PROVIDE SHORT-TERM RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN. THE UNICEF OF TODAY IS A MUCH BROADER-GAUGED INSTITUTION, ITS PURPOSES GO FAR BEYOND EMERGENCY MEASURES TO ENCOMPASS LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT TO CARE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, TO BE THE ARCHITECT AND ADVOCATE OF THE BASIC SERVICES STRATEGY, A CONCEPT DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND NUTRITION IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL, WITH THE CHILD AS ITS FOCUS. EARLIER YOU HAVE HEARD THE VIEWS OF MY GOVERNMENT AS EXPRESSED BY DR. BOURNE, THAT IS TO SAY WE BELIEVE THE CONCEPT IS SOUND AND DESERVES OUR SUPPORT.

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2. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE WERE BOTH MOVED AND EXCITED BY THE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON BASIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN ASIA. THE CENTRAL MESSAGE WE DERIVED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE IS THAT UNICEF AND THE DONOR COMMUNITY AT LARGE MUST CONSTANTLY BE ON THE ALERT FOR NEW IDEAS AND NEW APPROACHES SUCH AS THOSE PRESENTED TO US LAST WEEK; THAT WE MUST FIND WAYS OF RIDDING OURSELVES OF

RIGIDITIES--IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGES WHICH LIE BEFORE US. AS PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID SO ELOQUENTLY, "WHAT NOBLER PURPOSE CAN AN INSTITUTION OR A NATION HAVE THAN TO BRING TO THEIR FULL FRUITION THE BODIES AND MINDS OF FUTURE CITIZENS." IT IS OUR TASK HERE TO EXAMINE WHAT THE PAST YEAR HAS BROUGHT AND TO PLAN BETTER FOR THOSE YEARS TO COME IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL.

3. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HAVE BEFORE US AN EXCELLENT AND INFORMATIVE PROGRESS REPORT ASSEMBLED AND WRITTEN BY THE DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HIS FINE STAFF. THE US DELEGATION WISHES TO COMPLIMENT HIM AND THEM ON THEIR PERFORMANCE, NOT ONLY IN THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT BUT ALSO ON THE WORK ON BEHALF OF OF CHILDREN WHICH IT REPRESENTS.

4. THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN, AS I BELIEVE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUGGESTED IT MIGHT, A YEAR OF PAUSE OF CONSO WPCDTE. INDEED, UNICEF EXPENDITURES FEEL OFF SLIGHTLY DURING THE YEAR. NOW, HOWEVER, IT IS TIME TO PUSH AHEAD TO MEET THE CRUSHING NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS EVERYWHERE.

5. IN UNDERTAKING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF CHILDREN, MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE THE PROBLEMS POSED BY RAPIDLY-GROWING POPULATIONS. MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL AS WELL AS FAMILY GOALS FOR A MORE RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING
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CONDITIONS. SINCE 1967, UNICEF HAS HAD A MANDATE TO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE IN FAMILY PLANNING AS PART OF ITS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES. LAST YEAR IN THE BOARD'S RESOLUTION ON BASIC SERVICES, DUE RECOGNITION WAS PAID TO THESE SERVICES.

6. HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL ROLE OF UNICEF TO DATE IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN BASICALLY THAT OF A PROCUREMENT AGENCY FOR THE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FUNDED BY UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES. MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT BOTH DESIRABLE AND APPROPRIATE FOR UNICEF TO LEND ITS PRESTIGE TO THE ACTIVE PROMOTION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES IN THE BASIC HEALTH CONTEXT THROUGH ITS COUNTRY PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES.

7. MY DELEGATION FEELS THAT UNLESS POPULATION GROWTH IS CHECKED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ALL THAT UNICEF DOES ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN WILL BE MERE PALLIATIVES. WORLD RESOURCES APPEAR FINITE; WE MUST, THEREFORE, SEEK TO

ENSURE THAT THERE IS SOME BALANCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE; OTHERWISE THE CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS WILL FACE THE SPECTRE OF MALNUTRITION, DISEASE, FAMINE, AND DEATH. WE SHALL, THEREFORE, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, PROPOSE THAT NEXT YEAR'S BOARD EXAMINE HOW UNICEF CAN UNDERTAKE A MORE ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE ROLE WITH RESPECT TO FAMILY PLANNING IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS FOR CHILDREN.

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8. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS USED A SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE IN HIS REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN. HE HIMSELF HAS QUALIFIED THIS OPTIMISM WITH THE WARNING THAT IT IS BASED ON CERTAIN STATISTICS AND INTENTIONS MORE THAN ON ACTUAL PERFORMANCE. MY DELEGATION IS GRATIFIED AT THE NEWS HE BRINGS, BUT WE MUST WARN THAT IT IS FROM IMPLEMENTATION THAT CHILDREN BENEFIT, AND IT IS UP TO US TO PUSH AHEAD WITH VIGOR AND DETERMINATION TO TURN INTENTIONS INTO REALITY, PROMISES INTO CARE, HOPE INTO FULFILLMENT.

9. MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS IN UNICEF MANAGEMENT. WE NOTE THAT PERSONNEL INCREASES HAVE BEEN HELD TO WHAT SEEMS IS MINIMUM, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF REDUCED PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND INCOME IN 1976, AND THAT EVERY EFFORT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE TO EXAMINE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES CAREFULLY. MY DELEGATION NOTES WITH APPROVAL

THE INITIAL EFFORTS TO INSTALL ZERO-BASE BUDGETING, A PROCESS WHICH THE UNITED STATES ITSELF INTENDS TO PURSUE BEGINNING THIS YEAR. THE APPLICATION OF ZERO-BASE BUDGETING SHOULD ALLOW NEW HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS
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TO BEGIN WITH THE RESOURCES FREED FROM PROGRAMS NO LONGER REQUIRED, AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDE THE DONOR COUNTRIES WITH EVEN BETTER JUSTIFICATION FOR THE WISE AND EFFICIENT USE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. IN THIS REGARD, MAY I ALSO NOTE AND SUPPORT UNICEF'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND ITS EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL EFFORTS. WE MUCH APPRECIATE THE SENIOR UNICEF OFFICIAL'S BACKING FOR THIS PROCESS.

10. MY DELEGATION ALSO COMMENDS THE EFFORTS REPORTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECRUIT MORE WOMEN FOR UNICEF AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF THEM IN PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS. WE NOTE THE HIGHER PROMOTION RATE FOR WOMEN. MY DELEGATION HOPES THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE AND THAT WOMEN WILL OCCUPY MORE AND MORE SENIOR POSITIONS.

11. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALLUDED IN HIS REPORT TO THE WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THAT REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT UNICEF RETAIN ITS SEPARATE IDENTITY, OPERATING PROCEDURES, AND ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME COOPERATING FULLY WITH OTHER ORGANS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. IN OUR VIEW, UNICEF'S UNIQUE ROLE AND THE SPLENDID WORK IT IS DOING APPEAR TO JUSTIFY CONTINUING RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE OF OPERATION.

12. MR. CHAIRMAN, IN HIS PROGRESS REPORT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALSO MENTIONED THE PREPARATIONS WHICH UNICEF HAS UNDERTAKEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION WHICH NAMED UNICEF AS THE "LEAD AGENCY" FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD IN 1979. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS QUITE TAKEN PROMPT MEASURES TO ORGANIZE A SECRETARIAT WITHIN UNICEF WHICH CAN BEGIN THE LENGTHY PREPARATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF SUCH A YEAR. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT
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UNICEF CONTRIBUTE TO THE IYC SOME \$3 MILLION FROM GENERAL RESOURCES TO HELP VARIOUS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THEIR

PARTICIPATION, AND MY DELEGATION SUPPORTS THIS MOVE.

13. NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, AS UNICEF EXPENDS INCREASING SUMS IN THE COMING YEARS ALL OVER THE WORLD, MY DELEGATION IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS THAT UNICEF MAINTAIN ITS APOLITICAL CHARACTER, IN THIS REGARD WE WOULD EXPECT THAT UNICEF PROGRAMS IN ALL COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO MEET THE ESTABLISHED UNICEF PROCEDURES OF PROPER SUPERVISION, INSPECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

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14. ON THE BROADER PLANE, HOWEVER, AND HERE I MIGHT PAUSE TO SAY IT WILL BE ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH AS MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES FROM SWEDEN AND CANADA, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DURING THE NEXT TEN DAYS AT SOME APPROPRIATE POINT WE COULD LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE UNICEF SECRETARIAT REGARDING THE MERITS OF UNICEF ITSELF, OR A FUTURES-ORIENTED WORKING GROUP UNDERTAKING A VIGOROUS ANALYSIS OF WHAT UNICEF SHOULD BE LIKE AT SOME APPROPRIATE BENCHMARK POINT IN THE FUTURE, POSSIBLY IN 1980'S. WE WOULD, OURSELVES, BE IN FAVOR OF A THOROUGH STOCK-TAKING OF WHERE UNICEF IS NOW, WHAT ASPECTS OF ITS CURRENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PHASED-OUT OR DE-EMPHASIZED; WHAT NEW PROGRAMS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN SUM, AN EXAMINATION OF THE KIND OF UNICEF WE SHOULD BE SEEKING TO CONSTRUCT FOR THE FUTURE IN TERMS OF POLICIES, PROGRAMS, PLACES, AND PEOPLE.

15. MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE TAKEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME

IN THIS BODY, BUT I DO WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT LONGER TO
PAY TRIBUTE TO TWO GROUPS IN ADDITION TO OUR EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR AND HIS FINE AND DEDICATED STAFF. I REFER TO
THE VARIOUS NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL
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ORGANIZATIONS WHO LABOR MIGHTILTY ON BEHALF OF UNICEF
TO PRODUCE THE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT OF OUR ACTIVITIES
THAT RESULT IN INCREASING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF CHILDREN. THESE VOLUNTEER
WORKERS BY THE THOUSANDS GIVE THEIR HEARTS AND TIME TO
UNICEF. WE OWE THEM A GREAT DEBT AND WE ARE PROUD TO
SALUTE THEM AS COMPANIONS IN THE STRUGGLE TO HELP CHILDREN
EVERYWHERE.

16. AT THIS POINT, MAY I SALUTE AND BRING GREETINGS
TO HER MANY FRIENDS FROM OUR OWN UNITED STATES COMMITTEE'S
DISTINGUISHED AND GRACIOUS CHAIRMAN, HELENKA PANTALEONI.
SHE WOULD ALSO LIKE ME TO SAY IS MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD.

17. AND MAY I EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF MY DELEGATION, OUR
MOST SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE VERY GRACIOUS AND
GENEROUS HOSPITALITY THEY ARE EXTENDING TO US DURING OUR
MEETING HERE.

18. THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN. END TEXT
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Message Attributes

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Executive Order: N/A
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